



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2001/NGO/38
18 January 2001

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-seventh session
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND ALL FORMS
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

**Written statement* submitted by New Humanity, a non-governmental
organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[12 January 2001]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, as received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

One of the goals of the United Nations is "to promote and encourage universal and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion", and it is a goal that we also want to achieve.

We are young people between the ages of 12 and 17 who are from different countries in the world, but who share the same great ideal: to build a world of peace. The many forms of discrimination and hatred which are an affront to us at our young age have not managed to discourage us, however, because we believe that the future belongs to us and it is our responsibility to prepare for it well.

Although we belong to different races, cultures and religions, we would like to live by the "golden rule", which exists in all our faiths: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you; do not do unto others as you would not have them do unto you". We are encouraged by the Declaration on the Rights of the Child, which states that: "The child, for the full and harmonious development of his personality, needs love and understanding".

This is our testimony:

When we attended the first Conference of Children for the Future in Chiba near Tokyo last summer, we met other young people like us who needed the love that is to be found in the hearts of every person. During our stay, we learned that love can change all of our relationships if we look for what brings us together instead of what divides us. Why can the same not be true of States? If we could love another country as our own, peace would be guaranteed.

For each one of us, this was an exercise - or rather an art - which involved:

Loving everyone, by forgetting ourselves and thinking about others, without discrimination against anyone who has different ideas or who belongs to a different race or ethnic group;

Being the first to love, without expecting others to take the first step;

Loving our enemies, by forgetting past offences, learning to forgive and telling one another, with love, how we can change and improve.

Human beings cannot live alone. We have to help one another, with hearts full of gratitude towards anyone who has done us a good turn, by doing the same in return. A future full of hope will thus be guaranteed.

We have said that the future belongs to us. We would like you to hear our voice: Let us make an appointment in all our different countries to meet and establish a dialogue.

We would like to be the spokesmen for all young people throughout the world who are the victims of exploitation, war and diseases such as AIDS. We are aware of the many differences that still exist between rich countries, where consumerism rules, and poor countries and we have decided to start living differently and to spread a new culture, the culture of giving and sharing. If nations lived that way, too, all of the earth's resources would be distributed

equally, without discrimination. Could the first step towards this goal not be the cancellation of the poor countries' foreign debt so that they might have better standards of living and development?

Let us give priority to dialogue and cooperation to put an end to all wars and conflicts, which are often the result of some form of discrimination, by committing ourselves resolutely to disarmament and using money intended for weapons for more peaceful purposes. Even sports are affected by discrimination. We would like sports not to be a means of making money, but to become an opportunity for togetherness and friendship among peoples, an opportunity to learn to work together, to win, to lose and then to start again.

So many young people are left to their own devices in the streets, where they get involved in drugs to forget how miserable they are. Drugs destroy the future of young people and, in some countries, the problem is very serious: if we had better prospects for the future, many would not use drugs. We ask you to combat this evil, for example, by adopting laws to protect us.

And what about the elderly? We must pay attention to older people because, with their experience and wisdom, they have a valuable contribution to make to society.

The media are a helpful tool, but are often not properly used: we would like the media to report the positive side of what is going on in the world, to provide objective information and to describe difficult situations in different countries so that we may live in greater solidarity. We ask you to prohibit the broadcasting of violent programmes which do not respect human dignity and the value of the human body by halting the production of games and cartoons which encourage violence and racism and Internet sites which can be harmful to young people.

Peace begins in the heart of every person. We would like schools to teach values such as knowledge of and respect for other cultures and religions and we would like peace education to be part of school curricula.

Let us not waste nature's resources unthinkingly, but, with future generations in mind, let us be like plants, which use only as much soil as they need. We know that people are happy if they live in peace with themselves and with nature. Please help us defend and protect it by stopping deforestation and by promoting recycling. Please create green areas in cities where we can all get together.

We must regard science and technology not as ends in themselves, but as being in the service of mankind, by prohibiting the manipulation of human life and encouraging efforts to find alternative sources to nuclear energy.

We would like globalization, towards which the world is moving, to be based not only on financial and economic aspects, but also on the communion between cultures and religions so that all peoples may form a single family.

We have already begun to build peace.

We know, however, that we need you in order to achieve this goal. This is why we are asking for your assistance, particularly in areas to which we, as young people, do not have access. We pray every day for a new and more united world, a civilization worthy of human beings.

We are convinced that all the tears that have been shed and continue to be shed because of the consequences of discrimination are like rain falling to enhance our efforts and those of the many young people who are working to ensure that mankind may become a single family where all people may live together happily and as brothers.

We thank the Arigatou Foundation which organized the Conference in cooperation with UNICEF in Chiba (Japan) in July 2000, thereby enabling us to achieve our aspirations.
